Alleged obstruction on the part of unions to the rectification of co-operative societies.

* 358 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any cases of unions obstructing the rectification of co-operative societies have come to the notice of the Government; and

(*b*) whether the Government have under consideration any scheme for improving the working of unions or any proposal to liquidate bad unions?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the negative.

(*b*) The policy of the department has been to liquidate financially weak and bad unions. In March last, the Government accepted the suggestions of the Registrar that supervision of societies should be undertaken by central banks assisted by local co-operative unions and that officers of the department should keep themselves in personal touch with the unions and stimulate them to exercise vigorous supervision. There is at present no general scheme regarding unions under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether action has been taken on the suggestion made by the Registrar? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" I think so."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I ask whether the officers of the department have succeeded in stimulating the unions to exercise vigorous supervision? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" The experiment was started only this year, and as far as I know, there is a fair amount of progress."

Proposals for the substitution of a new agency for the existing unions to ensure better control and supervision of co-operative societies.

* 359 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether instead of unions the Government are considering proposals to have any other agency for the better control and supervision of co-operative societies?

A.—No.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the Government are satisfied with the control and supervision now exercised by the unions? "

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" I am afraid I cannot answer this question which is too general in character."